Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

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New York, 30 July-24 August 2012

Progress of work in the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Statement by the Chair

Summary

The present statement provides information on the work carried out by the Commission and its subcommissions during the thirtieth session. That session was the first following the election of members of the Commission at the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, held in June 2012. The statement provides information on the election of the officers of the Commission, on the establishment of its subsidiary bodies, including new subcommissions, and on working arrangements adopted by the Commission. It also contains an overview of the work on the submissions made by Argentina; the Cook Islands, concerning the Manihiki Plateau; Denmark, concerning the area north of the Faroe Islands; Ghana; Iceland, concerning the Ægir Basin area and the western and southern parts of Reykjanes Ridge; and Uruguay, as well as information on the presentations made to the Commission by Argentina and the United Republic of Tanzania in relation to their submissions.

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1. Pursuant to paragraph 66 of General Assembly resolution 66/231 and the decision adopted at its twenty-ninth session, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf held the plenary part of its thirtieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 30 July to 10 August 2012. In accordance with the decision taken by the Commission at its twenty-ninth session,[1] the period from 13 to 24 August was used for the technical examination of submissions at the Geographic Information System (GIS) laboratories of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat.

2. The following members of the Commission, who were elected at the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[2] attended the session: Muhammad Arshad, Lawrence Folajimi Awosika, Galo Carrera, Francis L. Charles, Ivan F. Glumov, Richard Thomas Haworth, Martin Vang Heinesen, George Jaoshvili, Emmanuel Kalngui, Wenzheng Lu, Mazlan Bin Madon, Estevao Stefane Mahanjane, Jair Alberto Ribas Marques, Simon Njuguna, Isaac Owusu Oduro, Yong-Ahn Park, Carlos Marcelo Paterlini, Sivaramakrishnan Rajan, Walter R. Roest and Tetsuro Urabe. The Commission had before it the following documents and communications:

(a) Provisional agenda (CLCS/L.33);

(b) Statement by the Chair of the Commission on the progress of work in the Commission at its twenty-ninth session (CLCS/74);

(c) Submissions made by coastal States pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[3] and addressed to the Commission through the Secretary-General of the United Nations;[4]

(d) General Assembly resolution 66/231;

(e) Communications received from Argentina (5 July 2012 and 8 August 2012), Brazil (11 June 2012), Barbados (3 July 2012), Canada (15 June 2012), France (15 June 2012), Gabon (19 June 2012), Germany (6 June 2012), Iceland (19 June 2012), Myanmar (5 July 2012), Pakistan (5 July 2012), Philippines (2 July 2012), Sri Lanka (6 July 2012), United Republic of Tanzania (13 January 2012), Uruguay (9 July 2012) and Vanuatu (18 July 2012);

(f) Report of the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (SPLOS/251).

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[1] See CLCS/74, para. 61.

[2] See SPLOS/251, paras. 81-92. On 6 and 7 June 2012, the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention elected 20 members of the Commission for a term of five years. At the request of the Group of Eastern European States, the election of one member of the Commission was postponed in order to allow for additional nominations from that Group in respect of a vacant seat allocated to the Eastern European States. A Meeting of States Parties to the Convention is to be held by the end of 2012 for this purpose.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

[4] For a full list of the submissions made to the Commission, see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/commission_submissions.htm.

Item 1
Opening of the thirtieth session

3. The Director of the Division for Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, opened the thirtieth session of the Commission.

4. The Commission observed a minute of silence in honour of former members of the Commission, Alexandre Tagore Medeiros de Albuquerque and Kensaku Tamaki.

Statement by the Director of the Division

5. The Director of the Division made a brief statement on behalf of the Legal Counsel. Among other things, he recalled the significant contribution of the late Messrs. Albuquerque and Tamaki to the work of the Commission. He also highlighted the symbolic importance of the year 2012, which marked the fifteenth anniversary of the Commission and the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Item 2
Solemn declaration by the members of the Commission

6. Pursuant to rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Commission (CLCS/40/Rev.1), the members of the Commission made solemn declarations and delivered signed copies thereof to the Director of the Division.

Item 3
Election of the Chair

7. The Director of the Division, as the representative of the Secretary-General, facilitated the election by the Commission of its new Chair, Mr. Awosika. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the Chair of the Commission was elected for a term of two and one half years and will be eligible for re-election.

Item 4
Adoption of the agenda

8. The Commission considered the provisional agenda (CLCS/L.33) and adopted it, as amended (CLCS/75).[5]

[5] In response to an invitation by the Chair to present their submissions at the thirtieth session, Iceland (with regard to its submission on the Ægir Basin area and the western and southern parts of Reykjanes Ridge), Pakistan, France (with regard to its submission in respect of La Réunion Island and Saint-Paul and Amsterdam Islands), Sri Lanka and Gabon indicated a preference to make their presentations at a later session. The deferrals of the presentations to a later time were communicated to the Chair on the understanding that they would not affect the position of the submissions in the queue.

Item 5
Election of the Vice-Chairs

9. Following consultations, Messrs. Carrera, Jaoshvili, Park and Roest were elected by acclamation as Vice-Chairs. In accordance with rule 13 of the rules of procedure, the Vice-Chairs were elected for a term of two and one-half years and will be eligible for re-election.

Item 6
Workload of the Commission

10. The Commission discussed the request by the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (SPLOS/229, para. 1) that the Commission consider, in coordination with the Secretariat, meeting in New York for up to 26 weeks, but not less than an intended minimum of 21 weeks per year for a period of five years, distributed in whichever way that the Commission determines to be the most effective, and that no two sessions be sequential. In that connection, a number of proposals were made with regard to the working methods of the Commission and its subcommissions.

11. The Commission decided to hold, during 2013, three sessions of seven weeks each, including plenary meetings, for a total of 21 weeks of meetings of the Commission and its subcommissions. It also decided that four of those 21 weeks would be devoted to plenary meetings.

12. Pursuant to that decision, the Commission further decided that:

(a) The thirty-first session would be held from 21 January to 8 March 2013. The plenary parts of that session would be held, subject to the approval by the General Assembly, from 28 January to 1 February and from 25 February to 1 March 2013;

(b) The thirty-second session would be held from 15 July to 30 August 2013. The plenary parts of that session would be held, subject to the approval by the General Assembly, from 12 to 16 and from 26 to 30 August 2013;

(c) The thirty-third session would be held from 7 October to 22 November 2013, with no plans for plenary meetings.

13. In addition to increasing to 21 the number of weeks of meetings for the year 2013, the Commission decided to adopt a new working arrangement for its subcommissions. It decided to establish four new subcommissions so that six subcommissions would actively consider submissions. Further, in establishing those subcommissions in accordance with rule 42 of the rules of procedure, the Commission would take into consideration the membership of the existing ones. The appointment of members of the new subcommissions would be carried out in such a way that, as a result, three groups of members of the Commission would be formed to handle the work of two separate subcommissions, with each subcommission electing its officers for the consideration of each submission before it.

14. The Commission also agreed that this arrangement should be applied flexibly, taking into account the specifics of each submission.

15. In the light of that decision, the Commission agreed to establish four new subcommissions at the thirtieth session. The composition of two of them would be identical to the membership of the existing subcommissions, namely, those established for the consideration of the submissions made by Uruguay and the Cook Islands concerning the Manihiki Plateau. So as to achieve a balanced three-group arrangement referred to in paragraph 13 above, the Commission also agreed to make necessary changes in the membership of the two existing subcommissions. In doing so, it took into account the need to ensure equitable distribution of the workload as well as the expertise of members and geographic distribution among them.[6] The membership of the other two subcommissions, representing the third group, would then be determined ex novo.

16. The Commission decided to keep these working arrangements under review and to again include the workload of the Commission as an agenda item for the thirty-first session.

17. The Commission also decided that, following the election of members of the Commission at the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties, the ad hoc working group appointed by the Commission to address issues relating to its workload[7] had to be reconstituted. Messrs. Carrera, Haworth, Heinesen, Mahanjane, Njuguna, Oduro, Park, Paterlini and Urabe would form the core group of the ad hoc working group. Mr. Carrera was appointed Chair.

Item 7
Organization of work

18. The Commission approved its programme of work and the schedule for deliberations, as outlined by the Chair.

Item 8
Appointment of members of the subcommissions and other subsidiary bodies

Appointment of members of existing subcommissions

19. In the light of the partial change in membership of the Commission, which resulted from the elections held at the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties, certain vacancies in the two subcommissions currently examining submissions had to be filled.

20. Following consultations, the Commission appointed:

(a) Messrs. Glumov and Haworth to fill the vacancies occurring in the subcommission established for consideration of the submission made by Uruguay.[8] A seventh member would be appointed at a later date;

[6] See para. 20 below.

[7] See CLCS/70, para. 50.

[8] Thus, the composition of the Subcommission is as follows: Messrs. Charles (Chair), Glumov, Haworth (Vice-Chair), Kulngui, Lu and Rajan (Vice-Chair).

(b) Messrs. Madon and Marques to fill the vacancies occurring in the Subcommission established for consideration of the submission made by the Cook Islands concerning the Manihiki Plateau. In the light of the decision on new working arrangements and in order to accommodate the requirements of rule 42 of the rules of procedure, the Commission decided to appoint Messrs. Awosika and Heinesen to that Subcommission to allow Messrs. Kalngui and Urabe to be appointed as members of other subcommissions.[9]

21. The Commission also decided that it would fill the vacancies of the subcommissions that had already issued recommendations, if and when the need arose.

Establishment of new subcommissions

22. The Commission recalled that the submissions made by Myanmar; Yemen; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in respect of the Hatton Rockall Area; Ireland, in respect of Hatton-Rockall Area; and Fiji were at the head of the queue.

23. With regard to the submission made by Myanmar, the Commission noted that in a note verbale addressed to the Secretary-General on 5 July 2012, Myanmar had referred to the judgment of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea in Case No. 16, "*Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar in the Bay of Bengal (Bangladesh/Myanmar)*", and had requested that a subcommission be established to examine the submission made by Myanmar without further delay. The Commission reiterated that this may represent a case in which the circumstances which had led to the postponement of the consideration of the submission might no longer exist. The Commission noted, however, that it was not in a position to establish a subcommission, owing to the absence of an official communication from Bangladesh.[10] Consequently, the Commission decided to address a letter to the Government of Bangladesh seeking an indication as to its position in that regard. It was also agreed that a communication from the Chair would be addressed to Myanmar with a view to informing its Government of the above.

24. With regard to the submissions made by Yemen; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in respect of the Hatton Rockall Area; Ireland, in respect of the Hatton-Rockall Area; and Fiji, the Commission recalled its decisions made at earlier sessions.[11] Noting that there had been no developments to indicate that consent existed on the part of all States concerned allowing their consideration, the Commission decided to further defer the establishment of subcommissions for the consideration of those submissions. It also decided that, since those submissions remained next in line for consideration as queued in the order in which they were received, it would revisit the situation at the time of establishment of its next subcommission.

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[9] Thus, the composition of the Subcommission is as follows: Messrs. Awosika, Carrera (Chair), Heinesen, Madon (Vice-Chair), Marques, Oduro (Vice-Chair) and Park.

[10] For details on the consideration of this submission, see: CLCS/64, paras. 35-40, CLCS/68, paras. 50-51, CLCS/70, para. 42, CLCS/72, para. 43 and CLCS/74, para. 59.

[11] See, respectively, CLCS/64, paras. 40 and 71, and CLCS/68, para. 51; CLCS/68, para. 19; and CLCS/64, paras. 46 and 52. See also CLCS/70, para. 42.

25. In the light of its decision on the workload, the Commission decided to establish subcommissions for consideration of the four submissions that were next in the queue. These are (a) the submission made by Argentina; (b) the submission made by Ghana; (c) the partial submission made by Iceland on the Ægir Basin area and the western and southern parts of Reykjanes Ridge; and (d) the partial submission by Denmark on the area north of the Faroe Islands.

(a) Subcommission established for consideration of the submission made by Argentina

26. The Commission decided to establish the Subcommission for consideration of the submission made by Argentina and appointed Messrs. Awosika, Carrera, Oduro, Park, Heinesen, Madon and Marques as members.[12]

27. The Subcommission met and elected Mr. Carrera as its Chair and Messrs. Oduro and Park as Vice-Chairs.

(b) Subcommission established for consideration of the submission made by Ghana

28. The Commission decided to establish the Subcommission for consideration of the submission made by Ghana and appointed Messrs. Arshad, Jaoshvili, Njuguna, Mahanjane, Paterlini, Roest and Urabe as its members.[13]

29. The Subcommission met and elected Mr. Roest as its Chair and Messrs. Jaoshvili and Njuguna as Vice-Chairs.

(c) Subcommission established for consideration of the partial submission made by Iceland on the Ægir Basin area and the western and southern parts of Reykjanes Ridge

30. The Commission decided to establish the Subcommission for consideration of the partial submission made by Iceland on the Ægir Basin area and the western and southern parts of Reykjanes Ridge and appointed Messrs. Arshad, Jaoshvili, Njuguna, Mahanjane, Paterlini, Roest and Urabe as members.[14]

31. The Subcommission met and elected Mr. Urabe as its Chair and Messrs. Mahanjane and Paterlini as Vice-Chairs.

(d) Subcommission established for consideration of the partial submission made by Denmark on the area north of the Faroe Islands

32. The Commission decided to establish the subcommission for consideration of the partial submission made by Denmark on the area north of the Faroe Islands and appointed Messrs. Charles, Glumov, Haworth, Kalngui, Lu and Rajan as its members. A seventh member would be appointed at a later date.[15]

33. The Subcommission met and elected Mr. Rajan as its Chair and Messrs. Haworth and Kalngui as Vice-Chairs.

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[12] See also para. 20 (b).
[13] See also para. 30.
[14] See also para. 28.
[15] See also para. 20 (a).

Appointment of members of other subsidiary bodies

34. The subsidiary bodies of the Commission also needed to be reconstituted following the election of members of the Commission at the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties.

35. The Commission appointed Messrs. Heinesen, Jaoshvili, Kalngui, Marques and Park as members of the Committee on Confidentiality. The Committee met and elected Mr. Park as Chair and Messrs. Kalngui and Marques as Vice-Chairs.

36. The Commission appointed Messrs. Glumov, Haworth, Oduro, Paterlini and Urabe as members of the Scientific and Technical Advice Committee. The Committee met and elected Mr. Urabe as its Chair and Messrs. Haworth and Paterlini as Vice-Chairs.

37. The Commission reconstituted the Editorial Committee. Messrs. Awosika, Carrera, Glumov, Haworth, Heinesen, Madon, Marques, Oduro, Park, Paterlini, Rajan, Roest, and Urabe will form the core group of that Committee, which has an open-ended membership. The Committee met and elected Mr. Rajan as its Chair and Messrs Haworth and Paterlini as Vice-Chairs.

38. The Commission also reconstituted the Training Committee, another subsidiary body with open-ended membership. Messrs. Awosika, Carrera, Charles, Haworth, Heinesen, Jaoshvili, Kalngui, Lu, Mahanjane, Marques, Njuguna, Oduro, Park, Paterlini, Rajan and Roest will form the core group of the Training Committee. The Committee met and elected Mr. Carrera as its Chair and Messrs. Park and Roest as Vice-Chairs.

Item 9
Consideration of the submission made by Uruguay[16]

Report of the Subcommission

39. The Chair of the Subcommission, Mr. Charles, reported on the progress of its work. He informed the Commission that Mr. Haworth had been elected as a Vice-Chair and that Mr. Rajan would continue to be the other Vice-Chair. During the thirtieth session, the Subcommission had met on 8 and 10 August 2012. Meetings had been attended by Messrs. Charles, Haworth, Glumov, Kalngui, Lu and Rajan. The Subcommission had discussed the status of the submission made by Uruguay. It had considered the communication from Uruguay, dated 9 July 2012, and had decided to invite the delegation of Uruguay to present an update on the progress of its work at the thirty-first session, during the week of 21 to 25 January 2013. Should the delegation of Uruguay not be in a position to avail itself of that opportunity, the members of the Subcommission would devote that period of the thirty-first session to their work in the subcommission established to examine the partial submission made by Denmark on the area north of the Faroe Islands.

[16] Submission made on 7 April 2009; see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_ury_21_2009.htm.

Item 10
Consideration of the submission made by the Cook Islands in respect of the Manihiki Plateau[17]

Report of the Subcommission

40. The Chair of the Subcommission, Mr. Carrera, reported on the progress of its work. He informed the Commission that Messrs. Madon and Oduro had been elected Vice-Chairs. He then made a presentation on the status of work in relation to the submission, bringing to the attention of the Commission the amendments made by the Cook Islands to its original submission.[18] The Commission decided to instruct the Subcommission to inform the delegation that a revised executive summary would be required in order to publicize the amendments to the original submission. It also decided that the provision of one hard copy and one electronic copy in a secure format of the revised executive summary would suffice and that, notwithstanding section II of annex III to the rules of procedure, the Subcommission would continue its work in the meantime.

41. The Subcommission met from 15 to 17 August 2012. The meetings were attended by Messrs. Awosika, Carrera, Heinesen, Madon, Marques and Oduro. During that period, the Subcommission continued its examination of the submission. The Subcommission decided that its members would continue to work individually on the submission during the intersessional period, and that it would resume its consideration of it as a subcommission from 21 to 25 January and from 4 to 8 February 2013. It might also continue its work on the submission between 11 and 15 February 2013.

Item 11
Presentation of the submission by the United Republic of Tanzania[19]

42. The presentation of the submission to the Commission was made on 7 August 2012 by the Minister of Land, Housing and Human Settlement Development and head of delegation, Anna K. Tibaijuka; the Minister of Lands, Housing and Minerals, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, and alternate head of delegation, Ramadhani A Shaaban; and the Chair of the Tanzania Technical Core Group, Evelyne Isaack Mbede. The delegation also included a number of advisers.

43. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the submission, Ms. Tibaijuka informed the Commission that one of its members, Mr. Awosika, had assisted the United Republic of Tanzania by providing scientific and technical advice.

44. Ms. Tibaijuka stated that the area of continental shelf covered by the submission was not subject to any disputes. She observed that the United Republic of Tanzania had signed an agreement with Kenya extending the maritime boundary from the 1976 territorial sea and an exclusive economic zone boundary to the

[17] Submission made on 16 April 2009, see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files submission_cok_ 23_2009.htm.

[18] See CLCS/74, para. 37.

[19] Submission made on 18 January 2012; see www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/ submission_tza59_2012.htm.

outermost limits of the continental shelf as far as that limit may be established. She also noted that the United Republic of Tanzania and the Seychelles had signed a memorandum of understanding indicating no prejudice to each submission in areas of potential overlap. In that connection, Mr. Shaaban reiterated the view that there were no maritime boundary disputes with any neighbouring States.

45. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for consideration of the submission, the Commission decided that, as provided for in article 5 of annex II to the Convention and rule 42 of the rules of procedure, the submission would be addressed by a subcommission to be established in accordance with rule 51, paragraph 4 ter, of the rules of procedure, at a future session. The Commission decided that it would establish a subcommission at the time when the submission was next in line for consideration, as queued in the order in which it had been received.

Item 12
Report on the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

46. The former Chair of the Commission, Mr. Carrera, informed the Commission of his statement and presentation during the twenty-second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention and about the outcome of that meeting in relation to the Commission. In particular, he highlighted the statements made by delegations regarding the workload of the Commission.[20]

47. The Director of the Division brought to the attention of the Commission relevant elements from statements made by the representatives of States parties, as recorded by the Secretariat. He also informed the Commission of the pledge made during the Meeting by a State party to contribute to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of the participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in its meetings.

48. The Commission took note of the information reported and stressed the importance of ensuring that the issue of the workload of the Commission be included in the agenda of the twenty-third Meeting of States Parties.

Item 13
Report of the Chair of the Committee on Confidentiality

49. The Chair, Mr. Park, reported that even though no circumstances related to the issue of confidentiality had arisen, the Committee had held a meeting on 7 August 2012 and had decided that it would follow the past practice according to which it would convene meetings upon the instruction of the Commission, as required, and within its mandate.

[20] See SPLOS/251, paras. 69-71.

Item 14
Report of the Chair of the Editorial Committee

50. The Chair, Mr. Rajan, reported that the Committee had held a meeting on 7 August 2012 and had decided that it would follow the past practice according to which it would convene meetings upon the instruction of the Commission, as required, and within its mandate.

Item 15
Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advice Committee

51. The Chair, Mr. Urabe, reported that the Committee had held a meeting on 7 August 2012 and had decided to prepare a questionnaire for members of the Commission, with a view to compiling information on members expertise. That information would be used, inter alia, for the purpose of proposing members with suitable expertise in case of a request for scientific and technical advise from a coastal State. He reiterated the willingness of the Committee to assist States and encouraged them to make an official request for such assistance, if needed, through the Secretariat.

Item 16
Report of the Chair of the Training Committee and other training issues

52. The Chair, Mr. Carrera, reported that the Committee had not been informed of any requests for new training courses.

Item 17
Other matters

Presentation of the submission made by Argentina

53. Argentina had presented its submission on 26 August 2009, at the twenty-fourth session of the Commission.[21] By a note verbale dated 5 July 2012, the Government of Argentina requested the Commission to provide it with the opportunity to make a new presentation of its submission, in view of the time elapsed since the first one and for the benefit of the newly elected members of the Commission.

54. The second presentation of the submission to the Commission was made on 8 August 2012 by Mateo Estrémé, Chargé d'affaires ad interim of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations and head of delegation; Frida M. Armas-Pfirter, General Coordinator of the Comisión Nacional del Límite Exterior de la Plataforma Continental (COPLA); and the following consultants from COPLA: Juan Bautista Allegrino, Yanina Berbeglia, Lucia Dalmau, Edgardo Monteros and Carlos María Urien. The delegation of Argentina also included other scientific, legal

[21] See CLCS/64, paras. 72-77.

and technical advisers, including Karl Hinz, a former member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

55. In addition to elaborating on substantive points of the submission, Mr. Estrémé informed the Commission that one of its current members, Marcelo Paterlini, had been involved in the preparation of the submission.[22]

56. Mr. Estrémé noted that, even though the presentation to the thirtieth session contained new elements that were complementary to those included in the original submission made by Argentina on 21 April 2009, none of the outer limit points had been modified. He also reiterated the position of Argentina as stated during the presentation to the Commission at its twenty-fourth session regarding its claims over "Islas Malvinas, Georgias del Sur and Sandwich del Sur and the corresponding island and maritime areas", as well as the reservations to the note verbale from the United Kingdom dated 6 August 2009. Mr. Estrémé noted that, as stated in its note of 21 April 2009, Argentina had taken into account the circumstances of the region south of 60°S. He therefore requested the Commission, in accordance with its rules of procedure, not to take any action for the time being with regard to the part of the submission that related to the continental shelf appurtenant to Antarctica.[23]

57. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. It recalled that at its twenty-fourth session, it had taken note of the following notes verbales: from Argentina, dated 21 April 2009; from the United Kingdom, dated 6 August 2009; from the United States of America, dated 19 August 2009; and from the Russian Federation, dated 24 August 2009. It took also note of the communications received after the first presentation by Argentina, namely, the notes verbales from: India, dated 31 August 2009; the Netherlands, dated 30 September 2009; Japan, dated 19 November 2009; and Argentina, dated 8 August 2012. Taking into consideration those notes verbales and the two presentations made by the delegation, the Commission reiterated its instructions to the Subcommission, in accordance with the rules of procedure, not to consider and qualify those parts of the submission that are subject to dispute and not to consider and qualify the part of the submission that relates to the continental shelf appurtenant to Antarctica.

Report of the Chair of the Subcommission established to examine the submission made by Argentina regarding the progress of work during the thirtieth session

58. The Subcommission met on 8 August and from 13 to 24 August 2012. The meeting on 8 August was attended by Messrs. Awosika, Carrera, Heinesen, Madon, Marques, Oduro and Park. The meetings from 13 to 24 August were attended by Messrs. Awosika, Carrera, Heinesen, Madon, Marques and Oduro. The Subcommission commenced its consideration of the submission and held four meetings with the delegation of Argentina. During those meetings, the Subcommission made a number of observations on the material received and posed a first set of questions to the delegation, to which the delegation provided answers. The Subcommission decided that it would resume its consideration of the submission from 19 to 22 February and from 4 to 8 March 2013. It might also continue its work on the submission between 11 and 15 February 2013.

[22] See also CLCS/64, para. 75.

[23] See CLCS/64, paras. 73, 74 and 77.

Report of the Chair of the Subcommission established to examine the submission made by Ghana regarding the progress of work during the thirtieth session

59. The Chair of the Subcommission, Mr. Roest, informed the Commission that the Subcommission had commenced its work on 10 August 2012 and had continued from 13 to 17 August 2012. Meetings had been attended by Messrs. Arshad, Njuguna, Mahanjane, Paterlini, Roest and Urabe. During that period, the Subcommission had done a preliminary examination of the submission, including initial verification of its format and completeness. The Subcommission had also started its consideration of the submission. It had not held any meetings with the delegation of Ghana but had submitted its first set of questions to the delegation. The Subcommission had decided to continue its consideration of the submission during the thirty-first session from 21 to 25 January 2013, and possibly from 11 to 22 February and from 4 to 8 March 2013. The Subcommission had decided to invite the delegation of Ghana to meet with it during the week of 21 to 25 January 2013.

Report of the Chair of the Subcommission established to examine the partial submission made by Iceland on the Ægir Basin area and the western and southern parts of Reykjanes Ridge regarding the progress of work during the thirtieth session

60. The Chair of the Subcommission, Mr. Urabe, informed the Commission that the Subcommission had commenced its work during the thirtieth session, from 13 to 17 August 2012. Meetings had been attended by Messrs. Arshad, Njuguna, Mahanjane, Paterlini, Roest and Urabe. During that period, it had done a preliminary examination of the submission, including initial verification of its format and completeness. It had not held any meetings with the delegation of Iceland. The Subcommission decided to continue its consideration of the submission during the thirty-first session, from 4 to 8 February 2013, and possibly from 11 to 22 February and from 4 to 8 March 2013. The Subcommission decided to invite the delegation of Iceland to meet with it during the week of 4 to 8 February 2013.

Report of the Chair of the Subcommission established to examine the partial submission made by Denmark in the area north of the Faroe Islands regarding the progress of work during the thirtieth session

61. The Chair of the Subcommission, Mr. Rajan, informed the Commission that the Subcommission had met on 10 August and from 13 to 24 August 2012. Meetings had been attended by Messrs. Charles, Glumov, Haworth, Kalngui, Lu and Rajan. The Subcommission had commenced its consideration of the submission, verifying its format and completeness, and had then proceeded to undertake a preliminary analysis of it. The Subcommission had concluded that further time would be required to examine all the data and prepare recommendations for transmittal to the Commission.

62. The Subcommission had decided that its members would continue to work individually on the submission during the intersessional period. It had also decided that it would meet from 21 to 25 January 2013, prior to the plenary of the thirty-first session of the Commission. The Subcommission had decided to keep the week from 4 to 8 February 2013 open for meetings between it and the delegation of Denmark, should such meetings be either deemed useful by the Subcommission to expedite its work, or required by the delegation.

Summaries of the recommendations

63. The Chair of the Commission recalled that, at the end of May 2012, the then Chair of the Commission had addressed letters to four coastal States, namely, Barbados, Brazil, France and the Philippines, in respect of their submissions for which the recommendations had been issued but summaries had not yet been published.[24] In the letters, the Chair had expressed the intention to have the summaries of the recommendations published by 15 June 2012, the day of expiration of the term of office of members of the Commission.

64. The Chair informed the Commission that three States had responded and confirmed that there was no information of a confidential nature that would have prevented the summaries from being published in the form adopted. However, he noted that Brazil, in a communication dated 11 June 2012, had stated that the summary of the recommendations was still under examination.

65. On that occasion, the Commission reaffirmed the great importance of the transparency of its work and the consequent need to ensure that the summaries of all the recommendations become publicly available in conformity with its rules of procedure.

66. The Commission agreed that its Chair would address a letter to Brazil, encouraging it to complete the review of the summary of the recommendations as soon as possible.

67. The Chair would also respond to another communication, dated 6 June 2012, in which a State party to the Convention, namely, Germany, had renewed its request that the summary be published, informing that State that the Commission had taken steps with a view to speeding up the publication of the above-mentioned summary.[25]

Briefings and presentations by the Division

68. In order to facilitate the work of all members, in particular those who had been elected for the first time, the Division delivered a series of presentations and briefings to the Commission.

Trust funds

69. The Director of the Division briefed the Commission on the status of the trust fund for the purpose of defraying the cost of participation of the members of the Commission from developing States in the meetings of the Commission. He reported that assistance had been provided to allow for the participation of seven members of the Commission during both the twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions, in the amounts of approximately $125,170 and $88,552, respectively.

70. He expressed gratitude for the contributions that were received in 2012 from Denmark in the amount of $98,583.97 and Iceland in the amount of $8,818.67. According to the provisional statement of accounts, as at the end of June 2012, the total available balance in the trust fund was $720,629.69.

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[24] The submissions made by Barbados on 8 May 2008, by Brazil on 17 May 2004, by France on 5 February 2009 in respect of areas of the French Antilles and the Kerguelen Islands, and by the Philippines on 8 April 2009 in respect of the Benham Rise region.

[25] See CLCS/66, para. 101.

71. The Director also provided an overview of the status of the trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. He noted that the Secretariat had not received applications since the second half of 2010. During 2012, contributions had been received from Costa Rica ($5,000.00) and Iceland ($8,818.67). According to the provisional statement of accounts, as at the end of June 2012, the total available balance in the Voluntary Trust Fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission was reported to be $1,236,893.95.

Dates of future sessions

72. The Commission approved the dates of future sessions as follows:

(a) The thirty-first session would be held from 21 January to 8 March 2013. The plenary parts, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, would be held from 28 January to 1 February and from 25 February to 1 March 2013;

(b) The thirty-second session would be held from 15 July to 30 August 2013. The plenary parts, subject to the approval of the General Assembly, would be held from 12 to 16 and from 26 to 30 August 2013;

(c) The thirty-third session would be held from 7 October to 22 November 2013, with no plans for the holding of plenary meetings.

Acknowledgements

73. The Commission noted with appreciation and gratitude the high standard of secretariat services rendered to it by the Division.

74. The Commission expressed its appreciation to other members of the Secretariat for their assistance provided to the Commission and, in particular, noted the high professional standard of interpretation in the official languages of the United Nations and the assistance provided by the conference officers.